

CHAPTER 12. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SECTION 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1851. THE PUBLIC LAW. The following congressional acts and executive orders implemented through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and orders require consideration and action by Flight Standards aviation safety inspectors (ASI).

A. Title 49, United States Code (U.S.C.). Section 44715 of the U.S.C. (formerly 611 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958) directs the FAA to provide present and future relief and protection to the public health and welfare by the control and abatement of aircraft noise. The FAA must consider whether noise abatement regulations are economically reasonable, technologically practicable, and appropriate for the particular type of aircraft.

B. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). This public law establishes a broad national policy to promote efforts for improving the relationship between human beings and their environment. NEPA sets certain policies and goals concerning the environment and requires that to the fullest extent possible, the policies, regulations, and public laws of the United States shall be interpreted and administrated in accordance with those policies and goals. NEPA requires that all “major Federal actions” be evaluated for environmental impact through multidisciplinary studies.

C. Executive Order No. 11514. This order, issued in 1970, directs all federal agencies to monitor, evaluate, and control their activities to protect and enhance the quality of the environment. This order also requires the review of regulations, policies, and procedures relating to licenses and permits. It also requires implementation of any corrective action necessary to ensure compliance and consistency with NEPA.

1853. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES. Flight Standards environmental responsibilities are stated in paragraph 1 of Appendix 4 of FAA

Order 1050.1, “Policies and Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts,” as amended. Normally, the district/field office responsible for the action is also responsible for the environmental assessment. If additional aircraft operations will significantly affect the environment, certain procedural reviews that consider the “public need” must be accomplished before an operator’s operations specifications are issued or amended. Additionally, the FAA and its employees are responsible for ensuring compliance with regulations and procedures established to protect and enhance the environment. The following sections provide direction and guidance for fulfilling Flight Standards’ responsibility with respect to the national environment.

1855. AVAILABILITY OF ASSISTANCE. A thorough discussion on the subject of environmental and aircraft noise requirements is not possible within the framework of this handbook. Additional information is in FAA Orders 1050.13, “Replacement, Apportionment, and Compliance Plans Submitted Under Subpart E of FAR Part 91,” and 1050.1, as amended. Flight Standards inspectors should not hesitate to request assistance. Assistance is available through the regionally assigned noise abatement officer (NAO) (FAA Order 1050.11, “Noise Control Planning”) and Washington Headquarters staff personnel in the Office of Environment and Energy (AEE-110 and AEE-120 at (202) 267-8933). Assistance on performance and aircraft noise considerations is available through the appropriate aircraft evaluation groups (AEG) and AFS-430. Regional flight procedures staff personnel can often provide assistance on departure and arrival procedures established for noise abatement purposes. Questions concerning flightcrew operational procedures for noise abatement procedures should be directed to Headquarters Flight Standards staff personnel (AFS-430).

1856.-1860. RESERVED.

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